(e) It is not possible to meet all the demands raised by the Unions for reasons of the high cost, effect on other industries, unreasonableness, effect on productivity etc. Through formal and informal Bipartite discussions, unions are dissuaded from going on strikes by the Indian Banks Association. At times, meetings are also arranged with the senior Government officials and the concerned Ministers. Appeals are issued by the Finance Minister to the unions to call off the strike. The Labour Department also holds conciliation proceedings to resolve the disputes under the I. D. Act.

Availability of Foreign Exchange for Import of Life Saving Drugs

1756. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have decided to allocate certain amount at official exchange rate for the import of life saving drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) what are the parameters in which life saving drugs would be identified;

(d) whether his Ministry have setup any Committee in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what are the terms of reference of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Foreign exchange at official rate will be available for the import of life saving drugs to be identified for the purpose. However no specific amount has been allocated for the purpose. The parameters for identification are under formulation by the Government.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Modernisation of Banking Sector

1757. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 872 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to modernise the banking sector to make it an effective catalytic agent for social change; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Committee on the Financial System (Chairman—Shri M. Narasimham) covering, interalia, issues of upgrading of financial technology and modernisation of work systems in the banking sector are under consideration.

Reduction in AID from Japan

1758. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese Government are likely to slash by 50 per cent, the 500 million dollar aid sought by the Indian Government and that too with certain conditions;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the conditions imposed by the Japanese Government for giving half of the requested aid; and

(c) what are the projects for which the Japanese aid was sought and what is the likely impact on the implementation of these projects with the reduced aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government of India are negotiating the 1992-93 loan package with Japan and have requested for an increase over last year's pledge, with 40—50% of the amount to be given in the form of fast disbursing assistance. An appraisal mission from Japan is visiting India this month to hold further

discussions. The actual loan commitment will be announced in the Aid India Consortium, Meeting in June, 1992.

Credit Cards Introduced by Banks

1759. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of nationalised and foreign banks in the country which have so far introduced credit cards system, State-wise;

(b) the number of credit cards in circulation at the end of February, 1992;

(c) the details of the loss/profit to the nationalised banks during 1990-91, 1991-92 and so far on this account; and

(d) what are the reasons for losses, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) RBI has reported that the following nationalised/foreign banks have introduced Rupee credit cards:—

(1) Andhra Bank
(2) Bank of Baroda
(3) Bank of India
(4) Vijaya Bank
(5) Canara Bank
(6) Central Bank of India
(7) ANZ Grindlays Bank
(8) Citi Bank
(9) Hongkong and Shanghai Baking Corporation Ltd.
(10) Standard Chartered Bank.

The following nationalised banks have also launched credit cards on the strength of tie up arrangements with banks having their own credit cards:—

(1) Syndicate Bank
(2) Corporation Bank
(3) Oriental Bank of Commerce
(4) United Bank of India
(5) Union Bank of India
(6) Allahabad Bank
(7) Indian Overseas Bank
(8) Bank of Maharashtra
(9) Dena Bank
(10) Punjab & Sind Bank.

State-wise position of credit cards issued by banks it not maintained.

(b) The bank-wise position of credit cards in circulation is as under:—

Name of the Bank	No. of Cards	As on
1. Bank of India	23,963	30-9-91
2 Central Bank of India	64,972	31-12-91
3 Bank of Baroda	90,318	30-9-91
4 Andhra Bank	65,000	31-12-91
5 Vijaya Bank	33,940	31-12-91
6 Union Bank of India	4,119	31-12-91
7 Syndicate Bank	6,519	31-12-91
8 Canara Bank	1,30,553	30-9-91
9 Corporation Bank	5,402	31-12-91
10 Allahabad Bank	11,695	30-9-90
11 Oriental Bank of Commerce	117	31-12-91
12 ANZ Grindlays Bank	26,165	30-9-91
13 Citi Bank	65,584	30-12-91

(Details as on 29-2-1992 are not readily available).